

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2012, in the Cabinet Room of the John G. Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware.

Present were: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt, Dr. Terry M. Whittaker, and Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education. Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director, was also present.

Also in attendance were Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education; and Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary for Financial Reform and Resource Management.

Attending portions of the meeting in conjunction with agenda items: Dr. Michael Stetter, James Dick, Marian Wolak, Tonyea Mead, Jim Hertzog, Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Tennell Brewington, Family Foundations; Damian Ross, Family Foundations; Willie Mobley, Family Foundations, Sean Moore, Family Foundations; Yvonne Johnson, Delaware PTA; Susan Brown, Delaware PTA; Alison Kepner, and John Carwell.

Also attending: John Hindman, Deputy Attorney General; Scott Reihm, Delaware Association of School Administrators (DASA); Charles Michels, Professional Standards Board (PSB); Deb Stevens, Delaware State Education Association (DSEA); Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network; Debbie Doordan, Innovative Schools, Melissa Browne, LACC, Sue Francis, Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA); Hugh Broomall, Red Clay District; and Kim Williams, Red Clay Board.

### **Call to Order**

President Gray presided over the monthly meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. She welcomed all guests to the State Board's public meeting.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The first order of business was approval of the agenda. No changes or additions were proposed to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Dr. Gray	None.
Mr. Melendez	
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the minutes of the work session and regular meeting held on April 19, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Dr. Gray	None.
Mr. Melendez	
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	

### **Formal Public Comment**

It was indicated that this was the time the Board set aside for formal public comment. Dr. Gray announced that no individuals signed up to address the State Board.

### **Committee Reports from State Board Members**

Mr. Melendez attended the State Board retreat and found it very valuable and informative. He attended the Superstars in Education dinner, the charter school public hearing and the confirmation hearing for the Board's proposed new member, Randall Hughes. Mr. Melendez thanked Dr. Lowery for everything she has done for education in Delaware, always doing what is best for Delaware children.

Dr. Whittaker attended the State Board retreat and thanked Ms. Johnson for planning such a productive retreat. He attended the Superstars in Education dinner. He echoed Mr. Melendez's comments about Secretary Lowery noting it was a bittersweet moment.

Mrs. Rutt attended the charter school hearing sponsored by Representative Schooley, the State Board retreat, and the Superstars in Education dinner. She expressed her thanks to Dr. Lowery noting it was an honor to work with her.

Mr. Heffernan also attended the public hearing on charter schools sponsored by Representative Schooley and the State Board retreat. He thanked Dr. Lowery for her service commenting that it was not about the adults -- it was always about the kids.

Ms. Johnson highlighted her monthly activities including planning and coordinating the State Board retreat, the Board's paper free meeting debut and working with the charter stakeholders on the charter performance framework. She also was a judge for the Technology Student Association and attended meetings and sessions at Legislative Hall on behalf of the State Board.

President Gray stated she would not be repetitive and attended many of the same events as her fellow Board members. She noted she attended the National Charter Schools Week celebration on Legislative Mall and provided comments. She attended the Jobs for Delaware Graduates board meeting and she also met with community members and leaders on a community outreach program at the Ezion Mt. Carmel Church in Wilmington sponsored by the United Way. She thanked Dr. Lowery stating she was an exceptional lady, leader, educator, and innovator.

### **State Board Procedures Manual**

Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel to the State Board stated that revisions to the Board's Procedures Manual are being proposed. These revisions include changes to better align the Manual with State Code, to delete duplicate items, to insert mistakenly deleted items and to correctly reference offices and positions such as the Delaware Higher Education Office and the Board's Executive Director. Proposed revisions to the Manual were initially reviewed and discussed by the Board at its retreat in December 2011 and a few additional changes were made as a result of that review. The manual will be brought before the State Board next month for approval.

### **Delaware PTA**

Yvonne Johnson and Susan Brown from the Delaware PTA presented their efforts on sharing Common Core State Standards with parents and citizens groups. The Board viewed a short video developed by the National PTA and was presented the PowerPoint used by the Delaware PTA in its outreach efforts to explain what the Common Core Standards are. Ms. Yvonne Johnson noted the many presentations that have been made to date and the training sessions that have taken place for parents. The Delaware PTA received a \$40,000 grant from the National PTA through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to educate partners on the implementation and sustainability of the common core state standards in Delaware.

### **Department of Education**

Dr. Lowery noted that Mr. Cruce, Dr. Rogers and Dr. Hodges were not present today as they are in Washington, D.C. attending the Department's stocktaking session with the U.S. Department of Education.

## **DCAS Update**

Dr. Mike Stetter, Director, Accountability Resources, provided an update on DCAS Assessment information, noting the spring test window ends June 1st. He presented the 2012 Assessment Calendar and highlighted the 2012 Expanded Parent Summary Report. The report will be sent to parents in early July.

There was discussion on the end of course exams and how the Lexile reading scores will be included next year in the parent report. James Hertzog, Education Associates for Students Assessment assisted in the presentation.

The Board recessed from 2:34 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

## **Governor's Education Agenda**

James Dick, Education Associate for Mathematics, provided an update on the Common Core Steering Committee which is a committee with twenty- four members. Representation on the committee includes 7 Department staff, 1 Elementary Principal, 1 Secondary Principal, 2 Superintendents, 1 representative from the PTA, 6 district representatives, 1 from DSEA, Rodel, EDI, IHE, and the Vision Network. The committee is reviewing transition plans from Ohio, New York, Kansas and Oregon and is focusing on assessment, curriculum and instruction. A survey was sent asking districts about challenges they view with the Common Core Standards and what professional development is needed. Mr. Dick noted that the survey had a 74% participation rate.

Marian Wolak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, explained that through the State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards, focus is on implementing the Common Core Standards. She noted that capacity is being built through the train the trainer model which offers districts flexibility in their professional development. She provided a listing of professional development scheduled. It was noted that one of the critical pieces with the Common Core Standards is the instructional shift in English/language arts and mathematics. Instructional modules are being developed and educational resources are being researched to assist districts and teachers. Mr. Dick provided an update on the Smarter Balanced activities that are currently underway which includes assessment professional development modules and a digital library for teachers by 2014.

Ms. Wolak explained that the Lexile reading level is being reviewed in instructional books as well as student reading material. It has been found that the reading level of many of these books is below grade level. There was discussion by the Board on common core alignment and Ms. Wolak noted that 70% of the districts are in alignment but noted that some refinement was needed.

The Board was updated on the upcoming STEM Institute. Tonyea Mead, Education Associate for Science, provided the update and invited the Board members to the Institute. She highlighted

professional development that is scheduled for administrators that shows how STEM should look in the classroom.

### **Secretary's Report, Review and Discussion**

Secretary Lowery noted that she shared earlier that the Governor and a team from Delaware are meeting today with U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan. She explained that the team also included newly confirmed Secretary of Education Mark Murphy.

### **Department of Education Regulations**

Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Education Associate for Regulation Review, presented the Department regulations.

#### **294 Data Governance (For Discussion)**

The Secretary of Education is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to adopt a new regulation 14 DE Admin. Code 294 Data Governance. This regulation was developed in consultation with a working group designated by the members of the P-20 which includes representatives of the Interagency Resource Management Committee. The regulation is adopted pursuant to legislation passed in the 146<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and specifically 14 Del. C., §122(b)(24). This regulation provides for the criteria and process for interagency data governance and the conduction of evaluations, audits and studies. The *Delaware P-20 Council Data Governance Handbook*, approved by the P-20 Council in January 2012 is a companion document to this regulation. This regulation will be presented for action at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Johnson reminded the Board that recent legislation added the State PTA and the Secretary of the Department of Technology Information to the P-20 Council.

### **Professional Standards Board**

Charles Michels, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board, presented the PSB regulations.

#### **1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (For Publication)**

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend regulation DE Admin. Code 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher.

It is necessary to amend this regulation in order to facilitate proper and current formatting trends. There are no changes in certification requirements other than clarifying the requirements for those educators who seek this certification as their first Standard Certificate and those adding this

Standard Certificate to one or more previously issued on their license. This regulation sets forth the requirements for an Early Childhood Exceptional Children Special Education Teacher.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the publication of proposed amended regulation 14 Delaware Administrative Code 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Dr. Gray	None.
Mr. Melendez	
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	

### **1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards (For Discussion)**

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend regulation DE Admin. Code 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards. The Delaware Professional Teaching Standards shall serve as the common principles and foundations of teaching practice for Delaware public school educators in accordance with 14 Del.C. §§1201 and 1205 (b). The standards outline what educators should know and be able to do to ensure every K-12 student reaches the goal of being ready to enter college or the workforce in today's world. Delaware Professional Teaching Standards would reflect the Council of Chief State School Officers' Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium Model Core Teaching Standards.

This regulation will be placed on the June meeting agenda for action.

### **Praxis II Reading Specialist 0301/5301**

The Professional Standards Board is seeking the approval of the State Board of Education regarding new Praxis II test 0301 / 5301 Reading Specialist; the passing score and an effective date. Educational Testing Services (ETS) is phasing out the current Delaware-approved test (0300), as it is being replaced with the newer test based which is based on the latest best practice.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the revised Praxis II Reading Specialist (0301/5301) and the passing score and effective date as presented by the Professional Standards Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:  
Dr. Gray  
Mr. Melendez  
Mr. Heffernan  
Mrs. Rutt  
Dr. Whittaker

Nays:  
None.

On behalf of the Professional Standards Board, Mr. Michels thanked Dr. Lowery for her service and presented her with a pen set from the PSB.

### **Charter Schools**

John Carwell, Education Associate for Charter Schools, presented the charter school items on the State Board agenda.

### **Presentation by Family Foundations Academy Charter School**

Tennell Brewington and Sean Moore from Family Foundations made a presentation to the State Board on the success the K-8 school is experiencing. Ms. Brewington explained that the school has received a superior rating and wants to maintain that rating. The school has adopted a new curriculum that is more rigorous and college ready. The school is also offering career technical education exploration, a business program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The Board learned of the many ways parents are engaged to come to the school, visit and participate. Mr. Moore provided an overview of Lead America which is a leadership opportunity for students that also focuses on community services projects. Students from Family Foundations attend vo-tech high schools, private schools and area public high schools.

There was discussion on the Springboard Curriculum Program which will begin next year and that all Family Foundation students take Spanish. Dr. Gray thanked Ms. Brewington and Mr. Moore for the very well prepared presentation.

### **Application to Consider a New Charter: The Early College Charter School (For Action)**

The Board of Directors of this school submitted a new Application before the deadline of December 31, 2011, seeking approval to open in August or September 2013. The Charter School Accountability Committee has issued its reports on the application and a public hearing on the application was conducted on May 8, 2012.

Mr. Carwell explained that the mission of Early College High School at Delaware State University (DSU) replicate the nationally recognized early college high school model and will seek to serve particularly first generation college students in grades 9-12. Initial enrollment is 125 students. The Founding Board has established a partnership with Innovative Schools, a charter management organization (CMO), and EdWorks, a national organization that promotes the early college high school model. The school's educational program is based on the national

early college model launched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and expanded from the Middle College concept first articulated in 1972. The school will provide students, traditionally underrepresented in higher education, with a rigorous academic environment and a seamless transition from high school to college. The mission of Early College High School at Delaware State University (DSU) is to provide highly motivated students with a curriculum concentrating on science, technology, engineering, and math that is integrated with the relevant curriculum at DSU such that all students graduate with one to two years of college credits, preparing them for completion of a four-year college program. Mr. Carwell stated that the Charter School Accountability Committee has recommended approval of the application with conditions that are listed in the Committee's final report.

There was discussion on housing the school on a college campus as well as students knowing ahead of time of the rigor and the need to be highly motivated. The open enrollment policy was discussed noting that the school would be attractive for students with a STEM interest and that a specific goal would be to attract first generation college students. Dr. Gray noted that the application is a very strong proposal and noted the pieces that address the level of support that has been obtained to attract the population of students they are addressing – first generation college students. She also commented on the level of detail in the application for each year and how the curriculum addresses all of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century goals.

The Secretary recommended that after reviewing the record in this matter, the Secretary accepts the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee set forth in its final report and approve the new charter school application subject to the conditions in the final report with the following additional condition:

No later than July 19, 2012, the school will enter into a performance agreement in a form satisfactory to the Delaware Department of Education, which may be amended by time to time, at the request of the Department. And further that during the term of this charter, the school will comply with all regulations of the Department applicable to charter schools and any amendments thereto.

Secretary Lowery asked for the assent of the State Board. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that after review of the record and consideration of the Secretary's approval, the Board assents to the grant of a charter to The Early College Charter School, subject to the conditions recommended by Accountability Committee and the additional condition imposed by the Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried with the following vote recorded:



Ayes:  
Dr. Gray  
Mr. Melendez  
Mr. Heffernan  
Mrs. Rutt  
Dr. Whittaker

Nays:  
None.

**Application to Consider a New Charter: Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School  
(For Action)**

The Board of Directors of this school submitted a new Application before the deadline of December 31, 2011, seeking approval to open in August or September 2013. The Charter School Accountability Committee has issued its reports on the application and a public hearing on the application was conducted on May 8, 2012.

Mr. Carwell explained that the mission of Academia Antonia Alonso is inspiring children to become joyful, confident, creative, bilingual learners, helping them develop a strong biliterate academic and cultural foundation. Academia Antonia Alonso plans to provide a bilingual education to students in grades K – 5 in the Hilltop section of Wilmington. The Founding Board has established a partnership with Innovative Schools, a charter management organization (CMO). The school's educational program will use the Expeditionary Learning and Two-Way Immersion models. The Expeditionary Learning model was developed 17 years ago as an academic application of Outward Bound, an organization that values compassion, integrity, and diversity and seeks to develop character and leadership in students through experiences that involve challenge and adventure.

Mr. Carwell stated that the Charter School Accountability Committee has recommended approval of the application with conditions that are listed in the Committee's final report.

The Secretary recommended that after reviewing the record in this matter, the Secretary accepts the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee set forth in its final report and approve the new charter school application subject to the conditions in the final report with the following additional condition:

No later than July 19, 2012, the school will enter into a performance agreement in a form satisfactory to the Delaware Department of Education, which may be amended by time to time, at the request of the Department. And further that during the term of this charter, the school will comply with all regulations of the Department applicable to charter schools and any amendments thereto.

Secretary Lowery asked for the assent of the State Board. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez that after review of the record and consideration of the Secretary's approval, the Board assents to

the grant of a charter to Academia Antonio Alonso, subject to the conditions recommended by Accountability Committee and the additional condition imposed by the Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt.

There was discussion on the performance goals and assessing student performance. DCAS information would not be available for three years, when the students become third graders. It was noted that additional measures were indicated in the application. The support of the Latin American Community Center with before and after school care was mentioned as well as the support of the Center's parents. Some Board members expressed concern about the school offering the same program as the dual language program at Lewis.

The motion carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Dr. Gray	None.
Mr. Melendez	
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	

**Application to Consider a New Charter: First State Montessori Academy Charter School (For Action)**

The Board of Directors of this school submitted a new Application before the deadline of December 31, 2011, seeking approval to open in August or September 2013. The Charter School Accountability Committee has issued its reports on the application and a public hearing on the application was conducted on May 8, 2012.

Mr. Carwell explained that the mission of the First State Montessori Academy is to nurture successful, contributing, life-long learners in a Montessori public educational program for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. The proposed school seeks to instill in students the positive habits of inquisitiveness, intrinsic motivation, perseverance, creativity, innovation, cooperation, kindness, confidence, adaptability, critical thinking, understanding of diverse cultures, and independence.

Mr. Carwell stated that the Charter School Accountability Committee has recommended approval of the application with conditions that are listed in the Committee's final report.

The Secretary recommended that after reviewing the record in this matter, the Secretary accepts the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee set forth in its final report and approves the new charter school application subject to the conditions in the final report with the following additional condition:

No later than July 19, 2012, the school will enter into a performance agreement in a form satisfactory to the Delaware Department of Education, which may be amended by time to time, at the request of the Department. And further that during the term of this charter, the school will comply with all regulations of the Department applicable to charter schools and any amendments thereto.

Secretary Lowery asked for the assent of the State Board. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that after review of the record and consideration of the Secretary's approval, the Board assents to the grant of a charter to first State Montessori Academy, subject to the conditions recommended by Accountability Committee and the additional condition imposed by the Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez.

There was discussion on the location of the school and the enrollment policy and it was noted that enrollment would be based on interest preference. The Board commented that the policy needed to be fair and equitable. There was discussion on the outreach program and concerns were expressed on the perception that the charter school is linked to the Montessori private school. It was not the private school that applied for the charter. Comments were also made on the success rate of Montessori schools and that it would be an innovative charter school. The Board also expressed the need for the charter regulations to reflect the present issues and the changes that have taken place since charter schools were opened. It was pointed out that diversity and outreach are components of the charter application with noted criteria. They were both addressed in the application.

The Board took a brief recess from 5:18 p.m. to 5:46 p.m. Dr. Gray explained the motion on the floor. There were additional brief comments made on the charter application. Dr. Gray expressed that the Board needed the individual perspectives of each Board member on the table and thanked the Board for asking appropriate questions. The vote on the motion failed to pass with a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes:	Nays:
Dr. Gray	Mr. Heffernan
Mr. Melendez	Dr. Whittaker
Mrs. Rutt	

Dr. Gray explained that in order for a motion to carry it must have the majority of the Board and not the majority of the Board present. Since the State Board has seven members, the majority of the Board would be four votes.

### **Charter Performance Framework - Progress Update**

The Board was informed that the draft regulations for charter schools are under development and the charter performance framework will be a guide for those regulations. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Carwell will be conducting webinars the last two weeks of May and continuity to work with stakeholders on this initiative.

### **Charter Schools Update**

The Board received the Charter Schools Update.

### **Forgiveness of Day/Hours Missed Due to State of Emergency**

Pursuant to Title 14, 1305 (h), the Secretary of Education is seeking the approval of the State Board of Education to reduce the number of required days/hours of school for the 2011-2012 school year. Dr. Lowery made this request due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Jack Markell for Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> as requested by Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Christina, Colonial, Milford, NCCVT, Red Clay and Smyrna school districts. The State of Emergency was for Hurricane Irene that began at 6 p.m. August 25 and lifted at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 1 and it was noted that the past practice of the Department has been to recommend to the State Board of Education that any declared State of Emergency days be forgiven for students and teachers.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker that the State Board of Education forgive the missed day of August 29, 2011, which was a day declared to be part of the time of a statewide State of Emergency for Hurricane Irene for students and teachers for the 8 specified districts and for any district that submits a request between now and the end of the school year which meets the same requirements.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Dr. Gray	None.
Mr. Melendez	
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	

### **Appeals and Reviews**

None.

### **Information Items**

The information items were noted and available for review through the eBoard meeting agenda.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Whittaker and seconded by Mr. Melendez. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Lillian M. Lowery, Executive Secretary  
and Secretary of Education

An audio of the entire meeting is available on the State Board's website at:  
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/ddoe/sbe/default.shtml>